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The Charmed Reboot: What Went Wrong? (Part 4)

Kelvin Giwa Follow 7 min read · Mar 19, 2026

Image from The CW

The fourth (yes, fourth) part in a series of articles critically evaluating the downfall of The CW's Charmed Reboot.

Yes, I'm a pathological masochist as evinced by the fact that I've managed to utilize over 3000 words to verbalize my disappointment with the Charmed reboot and, honestly, 3000 words is scarcely enough to sufficiently communicate the extent of my qualms.

I stated before that the fulcrum of *Charmed* is its sisterhood, and yes, that is is an incontrovertible truism. In the Season 2 the introduction of Abigael Jameson Caine (Poppy Drayton) is something that almost unilaterally decimated the sisterhood and the viability of *Charmed* as a reboot. It becomes increasingly apparent upon rewatches that the showrunners of the second season were more interested in awkwardly inserting incongruent elements from other shows into *Charmed* and using *Charmed* as a vehicle for these themes and concepts that they would much rather be dealing with. Abigael is very much an exemplification of that.

As I've already stated, Abigael is a perfectly fine character in theory and on paper. She's cunning, ruthless and morally ambiguous in way that adds a dimension of intrigue and excitement to her mobility through the narrative and her interaction with The Charmed Ones and the *Charmed* universe at large. The problem transpires when a character like Abigael is introduced as a foil character to play off the lead characters, but then almost immediately is used to supplant, displace and almost oust them from their own show. Abigael dominates a large part of the narrative created in Seasons 2 and 3 before her departure from the show, and this is certainly to my chagrin because she's not the lead character. She's a supporting character and there is the expectation that supporting characters do not undermine or discredit the leads — they support!

In keeping with the Season 2's aversion to deepening the worldbuilding of *Charmed* within the framework of its Wicca and occult roots, when Abigael becomes Demon Overlord — thereby effectuating something of a peace treaty/amnesty between demons and witches — she effectively puts the kibosh on the presence of demonic activity within the show. This is deeply problematic because this means that The Charmed Ones essentially don't have anyone or anything to fight.

Yes, *Charmed* is primarily about sisterhood and the vagaries of witchcraft, but it is also concomitantly and correspondingly oriented around action and gratuitous violence of the demon butt-kicking variety. When you expel that from the narrative without a commensurately sufficient substitution, what remains is an incredibly tedious viewing experience that leaves much to be desired. Abigael's inclusion into the series in the short-term was fine, but in the long run it is to the detriment of the lead characters and their show on a multitude of levels.

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In conjunction with her instatement as Demon Overlord, Abigael is conveniently a repository of knowledge as it pertains to the demon and witch world, which means The Charmed Ones are repeatedly behoved to consult her for expertise and edification. Abigael isn't a particularly nice character which is fine because "nice" characters don't necessarily make for good TV (or something), but the optics of three Women of Colour leads having to constantly confer with and kowtow to a Machiavellian at best and despicably wicked and classist at worst white woman is thoroughly irksome to have to sit through. She lauds her knowledge over them constantly and condescends to them in a way that detrimentally subverts the hierarchy of the show. The Charmed Ones subsequently are not or are seldom allowed to convey initiative and knowhow because that would invalidate Abigael's position in the narrative, and thus, they are at her mercy and are written repeatedly as inexperienced and blinkered.

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And that brings me to an awful incident that occurred between Macy (Madeleine Mantock) and Abigael during Macy's quest to help reconstitute the Power of Three after it had been severed following their relocation to Safe Space Seattle. In the episode Needs to Know, The Charmed Ones attempt to re-establish the Power of Three but fail. This leads Macy to conclude that her demonic abilities are infringing on the strength of the sisterhood and the Power of Three by extension, and so she consults Abigael for help.

Surprise surprise, quite quickly the episode has fulfilled its quota of presenting a dilemma that The Charmed Ones must outsource to Abigael. Having a character like Abigael so extant and ubiquitous within the narrative as she is, is not conducive to interesting storytelling because she ultimately becomes a crutch that the writers become over reliant on. Divesting Macy of her demon powers was an execrable thing to do and is one of the biggest, most erroneous misfires the writers made in trying to purge the reboot of its Season 1 roots. It did not enrich Macy's character, and didn't event lead to the reconstitution of the Power of Three as Macy had intended! It was just a ploy on the writer's part to buttress the character of Abigael, whilst doing away with an element that they couldn't be bothered to meaningfully incorporate into their season. Macy's character suffered considerably because of this.

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In retrospect, it's probably for the best that the writers did away with Macy's demon powers because I personally don't set much store by their abilities to

do it justice. Still, it stings that they excised an element of the series that made it so interesting initially and an element that allowed the reboot to somewhat honour the original series whilst still maintaining its individuality.

In addition to the loss of Macy's demon powers, Mel (Melonie Diaz) and Maggie (Sarah Jeffery) are also hit with the inexplicable power-modification ray. Mel is indefinitely no longer a Time Witch and instead receives molecular manipulation abilities in the interim, similar to Piper Halliwell (Holly Marie Combs Ryan) of the original series and conversely, Maggie is no longer a tele-empath as originally conceived and is now the proprietor of premonition/foresight like Phoebe Halliwell (Alyssa Milano) of the original series. All of these changes unexpurgated scream executive meddling and edicts in the absolute flagrant ways possible.

Image from The CW

Moving on from the haphazard handling of the sisters, their sisterhood and their abilities, I want to focus on some of the supporting characters that are integrated into the narrative in Season 2 going forward. Jordan Chase (Jordan Donica) is a boxing instructor at Safe Space and is initially used as a plot device for the activation of Maggie's new-fangled premonition abilities. By virtue of her abilities, Maggie discovers that Jordan is in imminent danger, and it is then discovered that he is the recipient of a curse that will result in his untimely demise if something something the curse isn't broken.

Maggie helps Jordan in disavowing the stipulations of the curse, thereby liberating him from it and saving the lives of him and his future descendants, and so he naturally should have been on his merry way, except for the fact that he isn't? Circling back to the original series, a character like Darryl's continued existence within the narrative is rationalized by his profession as an officer of the law. This role enables him to operate within the remit of The Charmed Ones as an ally. He is able to provide cover for them during crime scene investigations and offer insight that they might not be privy to when it comes to investigating demonic activity so it made sense for him to appear consistently throughout 7 seasons of the show. Jordan Chase does not possess that same level of built-in narrative justification.

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He's saved from the curse, and then kind of just loiters around superfluously and I'm left scratching my head anytime he appears because it's like, dude... why are you still here? We occasionally see him conducting hand-to-hand combat drills with the sisters, that don't really amount to anything because, again...they're not really allowed to fight anyone or anything. For much of Season 2 he is fulfils the role of glorified scenery chewer that is accorded way more verbiage than necessary. Contractual obligations have to be fulfilled, I guess. I will say that he ultimately becomes Maggie's love interest after much awkward cumulative development so that's something...I think?

To be continued...

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Written by Kelvin Giwa

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Currently studying English and Film Studies at the University of Sussex. I'm passionate about living and thriving and going to the gym and movies.